

SBARA President's Corner.....

Ham Radio is a pretty unique hobby. The more I get involved with it, the more I am amazed. There are so many facets to it...there really is something for everyone. Start with a tech license and get an HT. The Yaesu FT-60 seems to have found a spot as a favorite, but the new Chinese radios are making inroads. There's VHF/UHF, repeater or simplex. You can upgrade to a larger mobile or base radio with more power and even do a little HF. Many forget, as I did at one point, that tech class licensees have HF permissions on 6 and 10 meters. You can then upgrade to a General class license and explore even more bands. Then there is the Extra class. I'm leisurely studying for that upgrade. Many feel it doesn't "buy" you much. But I ran into my first situation,

Amateur Radio Continues to Grow!

The Amateur Radio population in the US has grown to its greatest number ever, 717,201 licenses in the FCC database. Technicians hold 349,163 licensees, followed by Generals at 167, 257, Amateur Extra licensees at 133,391, and Advanced licensees at 54,293. There are still slightly more than 13,000 Novice licensees on record too. Technician numbers have grown by 8.2 percent over the past decade. The General class has risen more than 18 percent over the past 10 years. But the Amateur Extra class has grown a remarkable 27 percent.

last night, when it would have been nice to have it. My godfather/elmer, Alan Young (K6KLL) in Sonoma, called me up and told me that Amsterdam Island was booming in on 20 meters and he was able to easily "work" him as there was just a little pile up. I got off the phone and tuned him in. He was coming in pretty well. I took the opportunity to learn how to

setup working split (transmitting and receiving on two different frequencies) on my new HF rig only to suddenly realize...ARGH!...he's below the General class phone range. Oh well...it was quite a pile up by then and I probably wouldn't have gotten him, but it would have been nice to at least have the option!

Continuing on the uniqueness of the hobby...you can have short contacts or rag chews. I'm not a big rag chewer (considering that I like to talk), but it's pretty cool when you meet someone on the air who has similar hobbies and interests outside of ham radio. Then there are the contests. I'm just starting to dabble with contesting and having fun chasing the W1AW (ARRL Centennial QSO Party) "portable" stations that are featuring two states that change every week throughout the year. There will be an upcoming SBARA talk on contesting by our own Don Amyx (N6DA). And let's not forget about the various modes available...phone (voice), CW (Morse code), and data (RTTY, PSK31, etc.) I figure at some point I'd like to learn CW, but for now, voice is fine. I have played with PSK31 and even though I am a fairly fast typist, it just seems like work.

There are various macro buttons, though, to take the work out of it. You can have a whole QSO, if you choose, by just clicking buttons that have pre-configured messages stored in them. There are certainly other advantages such as it can be the only mode actually working on the band at the time. There are then the more technical aspects of the hobby.

What is the ARRL Centennial QSO Party?

The [ARRL Centennial](#) QSO Party is a year-long operating event that celebrates hams making contacts. In the end you will have accumulated points, worked new stations and made new friends all over the world. The Centennial QSO Party is made-up of two main activities: (1) W1AW operating portable in each state and most territories; and (2) The Centennial Points Challenge which is the accumulation of points from qualifying contacts made throughout 2014. To have a score listed online in the Points Challenge competition, logs must be submitted through the [Logbook of the World \(LoTW\)](#) system.

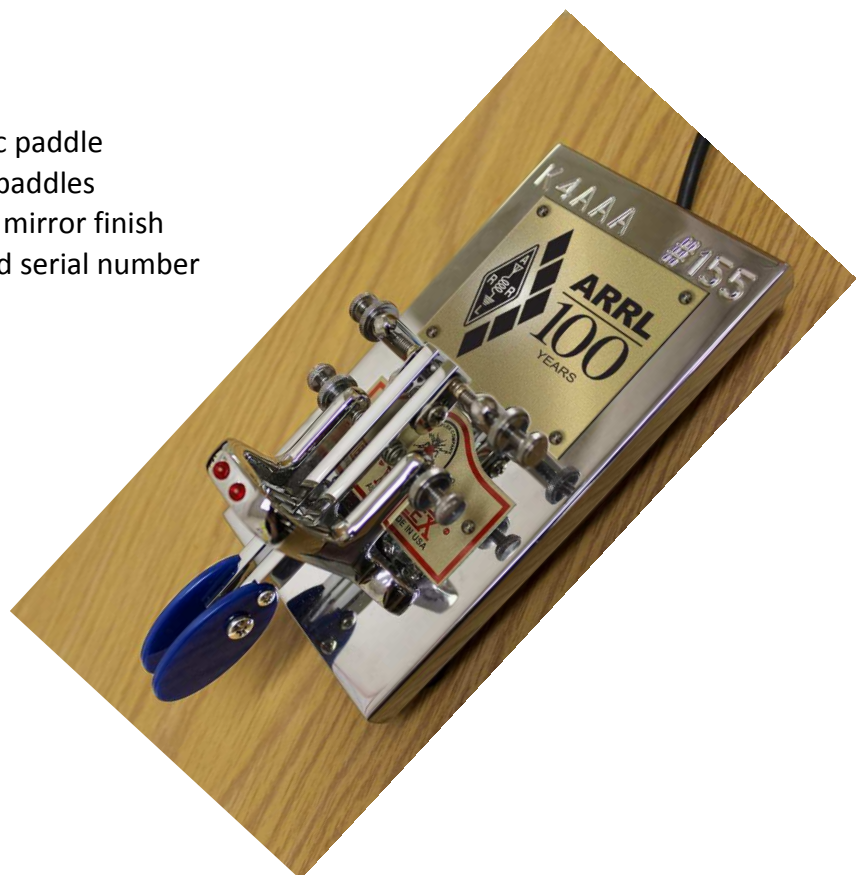
W1AW will be on the air from every state and most territories, and it will be easy to work WAS working only **W1AW portable operations**. This is the first ARRL-sponsored operating event where every member is worth at least one point, so work as many points as you can during 2014! Earn awards based upon points, working all states or working W1AW portable in every state and territory. This is an on-the-air event like no other.



ARRL Centennial Key

Vibroplex has partnered with ARRL to produce this commemorative key to help mark the occasion of ARRL's Centennial Year. This fully-functional key will be a treasured part of your station that you'll enjoy for years to come!

- Deluxe model [Vibroplex](#) Iambic paddle
- Jeweled key movements; blue paddles
- Heavy base; high-gloss chrome mirror finish
- Etched with your CALL SIGN and serial number



Calendar and Things to Do

There are plenty of contests this month operating in many modes on various bands, so find one and listen in. Check out <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/weeklycont.php> to see what's coming up.



I had a little free time over the holidays and decided to throw up a new website. This website is dedicated to Radio Operators of All Service Bands. The sites' basis was to have a Free, Simple, No Nonsense type of social community for operators to be able to communicate online, share information and provide a database of sorts for those using or interested in radio communications.

The short way of describing the site: Take Facebook, Google/Yahoo Groups and a Communications Database and mash them together.. All the same or similar options are available, but in a simple, clean and easy to use website.

The new site was made active today and I am looking for operators to visit, test the site and its' options. Possibly offer up suggestions as to what (if any) additional fields/options you think should be included in the Comm Cards of User Profiles, etc.. I've pretty much covered most of the basics already. The site is Live and can be used openly. Updates/ Changes will be ongoing in the background continuously and there are other updates/ plans/items to include later on should the general radio community decides to accept/ use the website.

My request to You (The Moderators), should you have a moment to check out the site, is to please play with it and even possibly offer it up to the Members of your Group(s) for them to try it out. This would be of great help as I build the site up.

You may contact me anytime by this email or by using the Contact Form on the website itself. Either way, I Thank You for reading this message and hope that I may hear back from you at some point in the future.

The Website:

The Radio Operators Community Database - R.O.C.D.

<http://rocd.org/>

Thank You,

S. LaFleche - N1SRL

n1srl@yahoo.com"

Inventory Your Shack and All Radio Equipment!!

Would you know what is in your shack if you had a fire, or, worse yet, would your widow know what nuggets of gold are in that dusty mess? The average Ham has thousands of dollars worth of equipment yet he probably doesn't realize it until it's too late.

Probably the simplest inventory a Ham can have would be a simple written log that has the name of the piece, its purchase price and date. While you're at it, take some snapshots and burn them to a CD. Store it in your safe deposit box. Some guys use their computer and build their inventory in Microsoft Excel.

It can be easily refined over time. Buying new gear is easy...you can add to it almost 100 percent from memory at the time when the gear is received. Sales or disposal is equally easy as "Sold VOM to W1XYZ for \$25 on 1 Nov13".

The key is to keep it simple. Remember that you will miss some items but they can be added when you desire. Price is the purchase price (a fact at the time the item is bought), and not a current valuation.

Record description, purchase date, purchase price and notes. One column per category, one row per item. For those with smart phones Apps are available such as "Home Gallery" by Liberty Mutual Insurance (free). It provides some prompts and it matches your phone's photos with items.

You could start your entry process by entering the most expensive gear first as this follows a good business principle of putting effort on the most important gear. Don't forget antennas and outside towers, equipment, and gear in the car.

On small parts of unknown value, just citing one lot at \$1 will help ensure that this category is not missed at the time of your trip to the big QTH in the sky.

When you have invested a small amount of time you have an accurate record to discuss with your insurance agent if you feel you may want additional QTH insurance.

If you feel the inventory process is tough for you, imagine how tough it would be for your widow and/or friends who have not the same knowledge as you do of the equipment by function and value?

You may well be surprised at the dollar value you have tied up in your equipment. You also have a file that can easily be stored on your PC, safeguarded in a vault, and sent via e-mail.

SBARA President's Corner..... (cont'd.)

Do you like building or modifying radios? How about experimenting with various antennas and maybe building your own. Let's also not forget transmitter or fox hunting. That's something else that I have recently started to participate in. Oh...and Umesh would be upset with me if I forgot to mention working satellites!

But one of the coolest aspects of the hobby is the community and SBARA is important part of that. I appreciate the friendships I have made through SBARA and on the air in the Bay Area. I like how the Yahoo group is used to ask questions and share information. The SBARA website is also a great resource of information. Our monthly meetings continue to have interesting speakers and topics. And The Groundplane newsletter continues to support our SBARA community, thanks to Bill Artelt's (WB9YVM) tireless work. Thanks Bill! I'm excited to continue to hear so many new KK6 calls coming on the air. Our community is continuing to expand and we will continue to encourage these new hams to join SBARA. HF conditions may not be the best, but the hobby, and the community, continue to grow. I thank you all for being a part of it!

Steve Wilson, KG6HJU



If you'd like to know "what's that?" in the world around you, the website [Hey, What's That?](#) creates 360degree panoramic views and terrain profiles from a given geographical location...like maybe yours! (Thanks, Zoli HA1AG)

SBARA VE Testing Schedule

Exams will be administered at Hurricane Electric, 48233 Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont. Contact: Greg Miller, wy6p at arrl dot net for info. \$15 fee, bring a photo ID. Walk-ins allowed.

[Tri-City VE Session Dates 2014](#)

Watch this space for Exam Dates for 2014 !!!

Too Late for this Publication.....



Are you looking for your favorite Repeater? Here is information you can use!

WA6PWW— 147.015 + 600Khz, PL 103.5

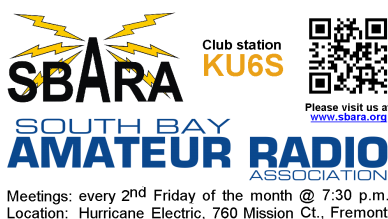
WA6PWW—223.900—500Khz, PL 107.2

WA6PWW—442.600 +5Mhz, PL107.2

K6AIR—146.940—600Khz, PL 123.0

K6AIR—441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0

ARES Net Meeting—Tuesday Evenings @ 7:30pm on 147.015+600Khz, PL 103.5



Monday SBARA Net

The SBARA net is take place....

Every Monday night at 7:30 pm on the WA6PWW repeater, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, PL (if enabled) 103.5 Hz.

Topics are club related things, projects you're working on and so on. It's a chat net. We need net control operators. If you'd like to be net control, let us know during the next net

—... ..—

Bernhard AE6YN

SBARA Weekly Nets—Voice and CW Action!!

The Slow CW Net

Every Thursday and Sunday night at 7:30 pm, Thursday on 144.230 MHz and Sunday on 7.057MHz +/- 3 kHz

You need an “all-mode” transceiver in order to participate in this Net.

The net has now its own email address. Please contact us here:

“SF Bay CW Enthusiasts”
<sf-bay-cw-enthusiasts at googlegroups.com>

—... ..—

Bernhard AE6YN



SBARA - Groundplane

The Groundplane is published monthly by the South Bay Amateur Radio Association. Articles and letters are always welcome. The normal deadline for material is the 25th day of each month for the next month's news-letter. Articles can be sent by email to hamradio at Comcast dot net or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.

February Action Packed Meeting

February 14th, 2012 at 7:30pm Hurricane Electric, Fremont

Amateur License Exams

ARRL VEC– February 15@ 11:30 am at Hurricane Electric – 48233 Warm Springs Blvd. Fremont. **Contact:** Greg , ae6yn at arrl dot net for info. \$15 fee.

Additional information is described on our Website, www.sbara.org

Select License Exams from the Navigation URL.

Happy Valentines
Day!!